

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 10413 231736Z

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /017 W

-----061446 240202Z /20

R 231630Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5486

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL MILAN

UNCLAS ROME 10413

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY DUFFEY FROM AMBASSADOR GARDNER

FOR: SATE CU/ARTS: EUR/ARTS: EUR/WE (MCKINLEY)

USIA IEU

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: SCUL, IT

SUBJ: LA SCALA REQUEST FOR U.S. SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

REF: (A) MILAN 0926; (B) STATE 130175; (C) MILAN 1014 (NOTAL)

1. FURTHER CONTACT BY OUR MILAN POST WITH LA SCALA SUPERINTENDENT BADINI REVEALS LA SCALA HAS BEEN NEGOTIATING WITH CHICAGO SYMPHONY FOR SOME TIME. ACCORDING TO BADINI PROPOSED DATES ARE SEPTEMBER 13, 14, 15, 1978. CHICAGO'S FEE FOR THREE PERFORMANCES IS FLAT DLR 50,000 (WITH CHICAGO ABSORBING RELATED EXPENSES OF TRAVEL, FOOD, LODGING, ETC.).

2. FEE IS PROHIBITIVELY HIGH FOR LA SCALA TO HANDLE ALONE. SINCE CHICAGO ORCHESTRA IS APPROPRIATELY PRESTIGIOUS, I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE VERY MUCH IN OUR INTEREST FOR USG TO OFFER TO SPLIT COSTS 50-50 WITH LA SCALA SO THAT CONCERTS CAN BE BILLED AS OFFICIAL U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO LA SCALA'S BICENTENNIAL, AS RECIPROCAL GESTURE ACKNOWLEDGING LA SCALA'S MAJOR PARTICIPATION IN OUR U.S. CELEBRATION. WE ASSUME THIS DLR 25,000 WOULD BE SPECIAL  
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FUND AND WOULD NOT REDUCE MISSION'S NORMAL ALLOCATION FOR CULTURAL PROGRAMS.

3. IN VIEW EXCEPTIONAL IMPACT OF LA SCALA PERFORMANCES IN U.S. LAST YEAR, I FULLY CONCUR WITH JUSTIFICATION CONTAINED PARA 3 REFTEL (A). I BELIEVE CULTURAL PROGRAM OF OUTSTANDING QUALITY, HIGH VISIBILITY--SUCH AS CHICAGO WOULD REPRESENT--WOULD

HAVE SIGNIFICANT EFFECT IN CITY WHICH RECENTLY HOSTED MAJOR  
ARTS FESTIVAL FROM LENINGRAD. LAPO CONCERTS IN ROME LAST NO-  
VEMBER DEMONSTRATE ENORMOUS IMPACT ON ITALIAN CULTURAL CIRCLES  
GENERATED BY SUCH A MAJOR CULTURAL PRESENTATION.

4. WILL APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE AND SUPPORT.GARDNER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009